

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00249 251142Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 /066 W
-----251144Z 035741 /14

R 251107Z JAN 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
SECSTATE WASHDC 3881
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0249

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: GE, PINT, PGOV, GW
SUBJECT: SPIEGEL SPECULATION ABOUT GDR MILITARY ALERT APPEARS
UNFOUNDED

1. THE 17 JANUARY ISSUE OF NEWSMAGAZINE "DER SPIEGEL" CARRIES
A THREE PAGE ARTICLE ON THE CLOSING OFF OF THE WEST GERMAN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATION IN EAST BERLIN BY GDR POLICE AND
ON EAST-WEST GERMAN RELATIONS IN GENERAL. TOWARD THE
END OF THE ARTICLE IS A DESCRIPTION OF ALLEGED DIFFICULTIES
ERICH HONECKER IS EXPERIENCING WITHIN THE POLITBURO.
SANDWICHED BETWEEN CREDIBLE ACCOUNTS OF HIS BEING CON-
TRADICTED BY HARD-LINERS THERE IS THE FOLLOWING INTRIGUING
PARAGRAPH:
BEGIN TEXT: AT THE END OF NOVEMBER NEITHER THE NAME NOR
THE PICTURE OF THE SED GENERAL SECRETARY APPEARED IN THE
GDR MEDIA FOR FIVE DAYS. AT STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT
POINTS AROUND THE GDR CAPITAL TROOPS WERE DRAWN UP
(MILITAER ZUSAMMENGEZOGEN) FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, AND
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AT LEAST TWO EDITIONS OF "NEUES DEUTSCHLAND"
APPEARED ONLY AFTER CONSIDERABLE DELAYS AFTER THE
ORIGINAL, ALREADY PRINTED VERSIONS HAD BEEN DESTROYED.
END TEXT.

2. WHILE HONECKER'S NAME IS MENTIONED RELATIVELY
INFREQUENTLY IN THE MEDIA IN THE PERIOD 22 TO 25

NOVEMBER, IT IS NOT TRUE THAT HE DROPPED ENTIRELY FROM SIGHT THEN. THERE IS NO CONFIRMATION FROM ANY AVAILABLE SOURCE THAT THERE WAS ANY SORT OF MILITARY ALERT AROUND EAST BERLIN IN LATE NOVEMBER 1976. OUR LOCAL ANALYSTS CLAIM THAT THERE WAS NO DELAY IN RECEIPT OF "NEUES DEUTSCHLAND" AND THEY TEND TO DISMISS THE ABOVE ACCOUNT AS LACKING CREDIBILITY.

3. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN CLEARED WITH EMBASSY BERLIN.
DAVIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DIPLOMATIC MISSION CLOSING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USBERL00249
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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Expiration:
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From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770118/aaaaaqdn.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a63d08d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, PGOV, GC, GE
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